

**Amendments to the Drawings**

Please delete Figures 19 and 20 (i.e., cancel drawing sheet 7/7 in its entirety).

**REMARKS**

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 22-26 are pending. Claim 22 is the sole independent claim.

The drawings are objected to for inclusion of Figures 19 and 20. These drawings have now been deleted, and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 22, 23 and 26 stand rejected by the Examiner as being anticipated by Young. Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Young in view of Down. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted previously, Applicants respectfully submit that Young fails to disclose at least the feature regarding a clamp to provide a second retaining mechanism as claimed in Claim 22.

According the Office Action, a clamp can be defined as any of various "devices for clasping or fastening things together, or for bracing parts; esp. an appliance with two parts that can be brought together, usually by a screw, to grip something." Applicants assert that the combination of screw-set bolt C and thimble a, is not a clamp according to this definition. While the combination does employ a "screw," it does so to *pierce* the rope rather than to bring two parts together to grip the rope (see page 1, lines 92-95, of Young). Thus, rather than retaining the rope through a clamping mechanism, screw-set bolt C retains the rope by penetrating the rope to form a mechanical lock type mechanism.

Therefore, Young fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention of Claim 22, and of Claims 23 and 26, which depend from Claim 22.

Regarding Claims 24 and 25, as also noted, the clamp disclosed in Down is an independent termination device, as is the device disclosed in Young. There is no teaching, suggestion or incentive within Young or Down to use two separate, independent termination devices, each of which has the objective of providing a single termination device. There would have been no objective reason for this combination absent hindsight reconstruction based on Applicants' disclosure.

Favorable consideration and passage to issue are requested.

Please charge any deficiency in fees to Deposit Account No. 15-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD J. ERICSON et al.



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Sean W. O'Brien  
Registration No. 37,689

Otis Elevator Company  
Intellectual Property Department  
Ten Farm Springs  
Farmington, CT 06032  
(860) 676-5760